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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION OF AND AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 13 April 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, in the Arabic language, the communiqué issued by the Ministerial Council of the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its fiftieth session, held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday and Sunday, 2 and 3 April 1994.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38, 40 and 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gaafar M. ALLAGANI
Permanent Representative

* A/49/50.

ANNEX

Communiqué issued at Riyadh on 3 April 1994 by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council

The Ministerial Council held its fiftieth regular session at the headquarters of the Secretariat General at Riyadh on Saturday and Sunday, 2 and 3 April 1994, under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, and with all its members present:

His Excellency Mr. Rashid bin Abdullah al-Nuaimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates;

His Excellency Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Housing of Bahrain;

His Excellency Mr. Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Oman;

His Excellency Sheikh Hamad bin Jasim bin Jabr Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar;

His Excellency Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait.

The Ministerial Council considered recent developments and changes in the Gulf region, in the light of the Iraqi regime's failure to carry out all its international obligations as laid down in Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression, its persistence in prevarication and selective dealing with those resolutions, its pursuit of a policy of aggression against Kuwait, its continuing presentation of a threat to the security and stability of the States of the Council, its continuing attempts to diminish the full cohesiveness of the legitimacy of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council in order to evade its interrelated international obligations, its persistence in reiterating its expansionist claims to Kuwait, its impugning of Kuwait's sovereignty, its threatening of Kuwait's independence and its violation of the terms of the cease-fire. The Ministerial Council recalled in this regard the affirmation by the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its fourteenth session that respect for the sovereignty and independence of Kuwait, as laid down in paragraph 2 of resolution 687 (1991), and for its international frontiers, as laid down in resolution 833 (1993), constitutes the essence of the obligations laid down in resolution 687 (1991) and that non-compliance in this respect constitutes a violation of the substance of that resolution.

The Council welcomes the resolution recently adopted by the Security Council, extending the imposition of international sanctions against Iraq on the grounds of its non-compliance with the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait and expresses its satisfaction at Security Council members' comprehension of the aggressive policy of the Iraqi regime and their insistence of the necessity of Iraq's respecting the sovereignty of Kuwait and

the inviolability of its territory. The Ministerial Council appeals to the international community to continue to put pressure on the Iraqi regime to desist from its ways of aggression and comply fully with all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the provisions of resolution 687 (1991), with regard, in particular, to the international frontiers of the two countries, the release of prisoners and detainees of Kuwaiti and other nationalities, payment of compensation and an undertaking not to commit or support any act of terrorism or sabotage.

The Council affirms its wholehearted concern for the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and expresses its sympathy with the fraternal Iraqi people in facing the human suffering for which the Iraqi regime bears the full responsibility, by reason of its refusal to implement Security Council resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991) concerning Iraq's needs of food and medicines.

The Council also reviewed new developments relating to the Islamic Republic of Iran and reiterated its steadfast position of support for the United Arab Emirates and its affirmation of its sovereignty over the three islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb. The Council also reaffirmed its absolute support for all the peaceful measures and means adopted by the United Arab Emirates in order to regain its sovereignty over its islands and expressed the hope than Iran would respond to the invitation of His Excellency Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates, to conduct a direct dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the question of Iran's occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates.

The Council condemns the conspicuous escalation of the Iranian media's propaganda campaign against Saudi Arabia during March 1994 and the media allegation that Saudi Arabia is hindering Iranian pilgrims and expresses its absolute support and full backing for the measures taken by Saudi Arabia to enable pilgrims to Makkah to perform the duty of the pilgrimage in ease and tranquillity, in accordance with the teachings of the merciful Islamic faith and with the resolution of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic States at their meeting held at Amman in March 1988.

The Ministerial Council considered new developments regarding peace in the Middle East and developments in the occupied Arab territories. In this connection, it expresses extreme concern at the deterioration of security and living conditions in the occupied Arab territories and places on Israel the full responsibility for the increase in the numbers of persons killed from among the fraternal Palestinian people; such slaughter is inconsistent with the spirit of the peace process and constitutes a violation of the fourth Geneva Convention. In this regard, the Council condemns Israel for the massacre committed by Israeli settlers against those praying in the Ibrahimi Mosque and calls on the Security Council and the co-sponsors of the peace process, the United States of America and the Russian Federation, to hasten the implementation of the provisions of Security Council resolution 904 (1994), condemning the massacre and calling for measures to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, including the establishment of an international presence, the disarming of the Israeli settlers and the application of the fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied

Arab territories. It affirms in this connection that the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are not legitimate in international law and that their continued presence constitutes an obstacle in the way of the peace process that undermines confidence and prevents the attainment of an atmosphere favourable to the achievement of a comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Council welcomes the signature of the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement on the establishment of an international presence in Hebron and the resumption of the peace talks and reaffirms its full support for the peace process on all tracks, with the aim of arriving at a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), the principle of "land for peace", the achievement of complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, first and foremost Jerusalem and the guaranteeing of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to self-determination.

The Council renews its call to the international community to put pressure on Israel to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978) so as to achieve immediate and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese south.

The Ministerial Council also recalls the recommendations of the eighth meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Damascus Declaration States, held at Damascus on 27 and 28 Rajab A.H. 1414 (9 and 10 January 1994). The Ministerial Council also welcomed the gracious offer made by Kuwait to host the next meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Damascus Declaration States, in implementation of paragraph I of the recommendations of the eighth meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Damascus Declaration States concerning the continuation of coordination and consultation in the political field between the eight States in respect of regional and international issues.

The Ministerial Council is following with concern the developments in the political situation in fraternal Somalia and looks forward to the achievement of reconciliation between the Somali factions. It welcomes the signature of the Nairobi Agreement and hopes that this step will contribute to the restoration of security and stability to Somalia, so that it may resume its course of construction and development.

The Ministerial Council also considered the new developments in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and commended the international efforts being made to force the Serbs to withdraw their artillery far away from Sarajevo. It appeals to the international community to take corresponding measures in the other safe areas. The Council welcomes the signature of the Agreement establishing a Croatian Muslim Republic in Bosnia as a step towards the restoration of peace and security to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, affirmation of its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

It calls on the Security Council to enable the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to exercise self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter by, inter alia, lifting the arms embargo imposed on it and strengthening the sanctions and intensifying the pressure on Serbia and Montenegro.

The Council expresses its extreme concern at the continuation of the deterioration of the situation in the fraternal Republic of Afghanistan and appeals to the Afghan factions to put a halt to the fighting and to give priority to the national interest and cooperate with United Nations endeavours so that peace and stability may be restored to that fraternal country.

The Ministerial Council also reviewed the situation on the international petroleum market, stressing the concern of its member States at the instability prevailing on it. In this connection, the Ministerial Council calls on producer countries inside and outside the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, to respond to the appeal launched by Their Majesties and Their Highnesses at the fourteenth session and to cooperate for the sake of the stability of the market.

The Council expressed its satisfaction at the positive results of the most recent round of the Gulf-United States dialogue, presided over by His Excellency the Saudi Arabian Minister of Commerce, representing the Gulf Cooperation Council, and His Excellency the United States Secretary of Commerce, and hopes that the steps agreed on will help to ensure increased support for cooperation between them.

The Ministerial Council looks forward to its fifth meeting with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the European Union at Riyadh on 8 May 1994 and the formulation of decisions that will promote cooperation between the two groups in the various fields.